

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/772,065

Examiner

Sharad Rampuria

Applicant(s)

HUTCHESON ET AL.

Art Unit

2683

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 10/26/04.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-59.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 30 January 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a) ☒ All    b) ☐ Some\*    c) ☐ None    of the:
    1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

**THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit  
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),  
Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other \_\_\_\_\_

*Allowable Subject Matter*

Claims 60-92 were cancelled as in previous office-action.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Senn et al. (US 6704563) disclose a system for prerating communication events, such as telephone calls, for prepaying customers are described. The systems and methods permit, at the beginning of a communication event, the determination of a time limit for the event based on the available balance in a prepayment account associated with the event. But Senn fails to disclose providing by the provider of unlimited access to the wireless communications services solely from within a limited geographic region that approximates at least one municipal region in exchange for the charge to the account.

Kirmse et al. relates to the use of a game server in connection with a messenger server in a multi-user networked computing environment.

Vange et al. disclose an interactive multi-player computer hosted game employs an unstructured telecommunications link, such as the Internet, between a game server and a plurality of game clients.

Rautila relates in general to interactive games, and more particularly to a multi-player game system using mobile telephones and game units.

Goldberg et al. related to a method and apparatus for automating the playing games such as blackjack in, e.g., a game tournament context so that they can be played continuously and asynchronously by a potentially large plurality of players substantially, and wherein information

Art Unit: 2683

related to goods and services for sale can be exchanged between players and sponsors of advertisements presented during the playing of a game.

And at the end, Sinclair et al. also related to wireless games, particularly, customizing interactive games with one or more players according to past mobile station activity.

Therefore, all of the above prior art fails to disclose providing by the provider of unlimited access to the wireless communications services solely from within a limited geographic region that approximates at least one municipal region in exchange for the charge to the account.

Therefore, Claims 1-59 are allowed based on Marsh et al. in view of Chow et al.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sharad Rampuria whose telephone number is 703-308-4736. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thu.(8:00-5:30) alternate Fri.( 8:00-4:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, William Trost can be reached on 703-308-5318. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://portal.uspto.gov/external/portal/pair>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free) or [EBC@uspto.gov](mailto:EBC@uspto.gov).

Application/Control Number: 09/772,065

Page 4

Art Unit: 2683

Sharad Rampuria  
Examiner  
Art Unit 2683

15 March 2005

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'W. Trost', with a large checkmark-like flourish at the end.

**WILLIAM TROST  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600**